ROBERT BURNS

RARE PRINT COLLECTION

Edited by
SEYMOUR EATON

Published for Private Circulation

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Connoisseur Edition

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No. 388

ROBERT BURNS

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PART I

Published for Private Circulation
Anno Domini 1900

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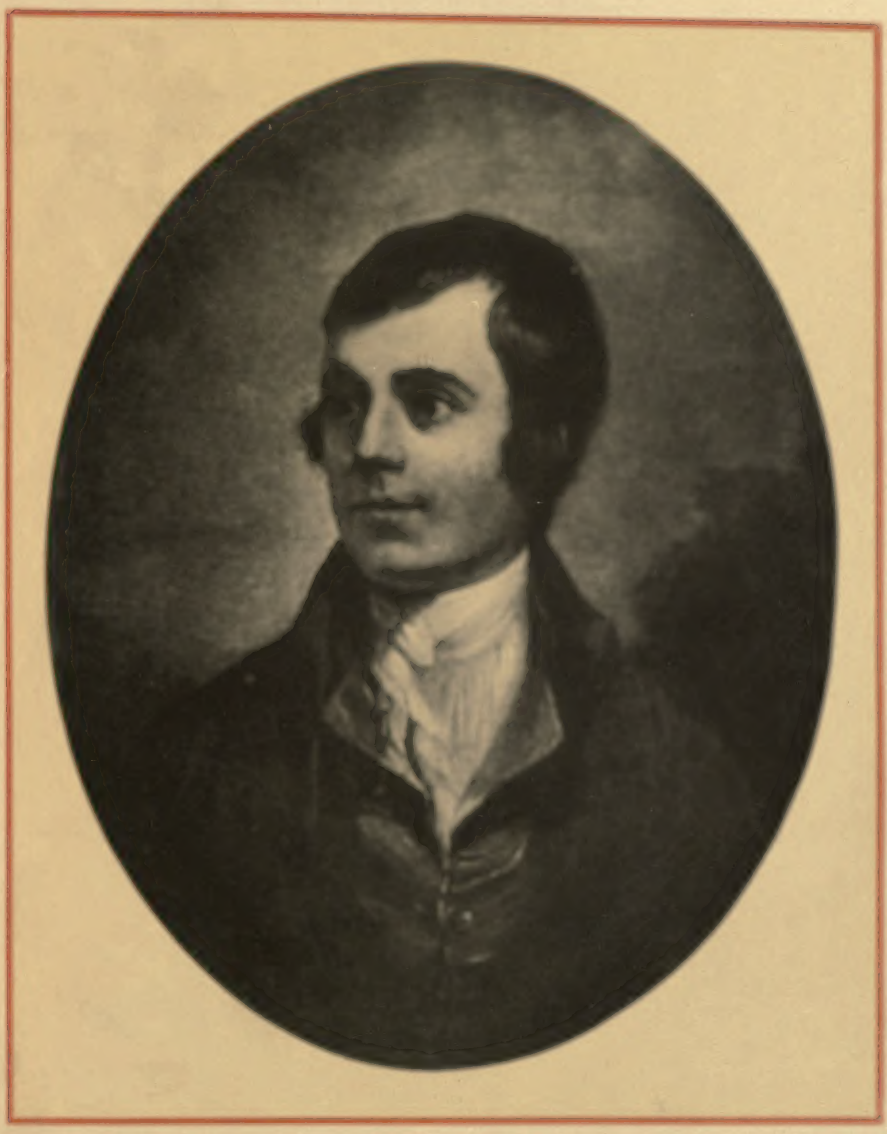
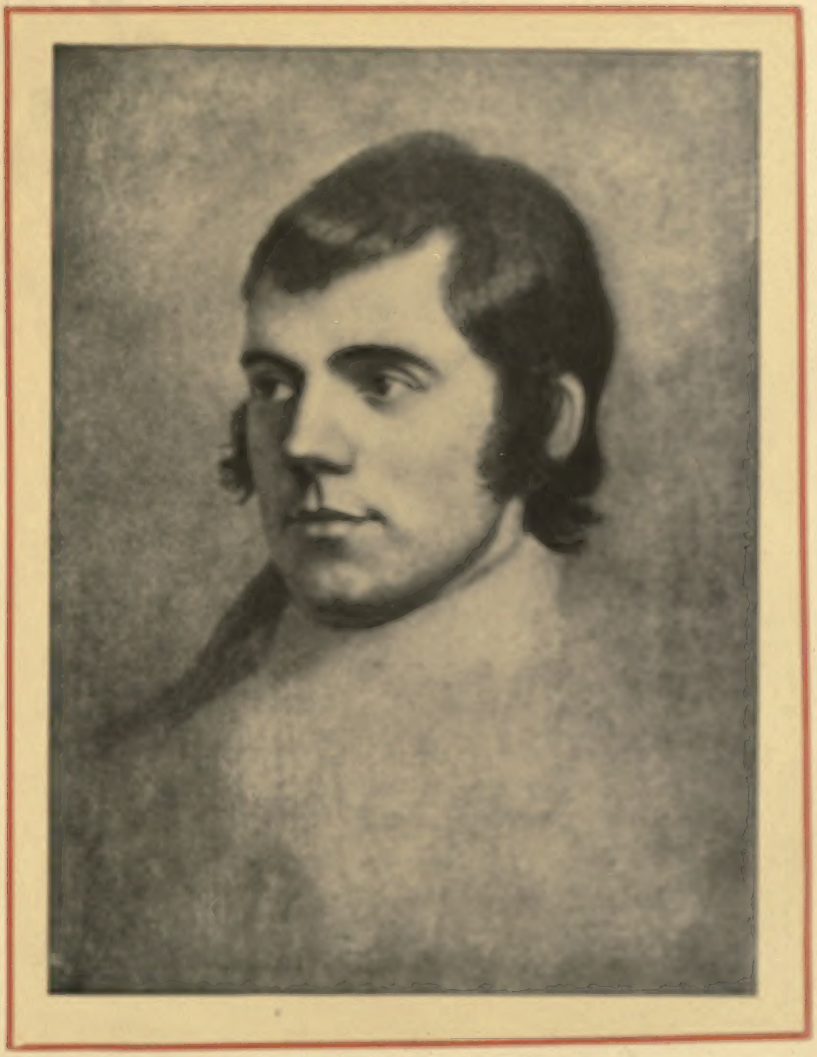


ROBERT BURNS

(From the painting by Alexander Nasmyth, in the National Portrait Gallery, London)



ROBERT BURNS

(From the original red crayon drawing by Archibald Skirving, and considered an excellent portrait)

The Mother of Robert Burns
(From a water-color sketch)

Elizabeth Hyslop Burns (Mrs. Thomson)
(Daughter of the poet)

BURNS' COTTAGE

(From a painting by John Burgh, R.A.R.)

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PART II

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ROBERT BURNS
(To Allan out of the past)

ISABELLA BURNS (MRS. HENDE)

(The poet's youngest sister)

BONNIE JEAN AND GRANDCHILD

(From a painting by J. W. Lauder, R.S.A.)

ROBERT BURNS GILBERT BURNS

Silhouettes of the poet and his brother

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PART III

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Holy Willie's Prayer

And send the Gowdy to a pet in Pray 5 Syn

O Thou that in the heavens does dwell
Who, as it pleases best Thysel,
Sends ane to heaven and ten to h-ll,
A' for Thy glory;
And no for ony guid or ill
They've done before Thee!

I bless and praise Thy matchless might,
When thousands Thou hast left in night,
That I am here before Thy sight
For gifts and grace,
A burning and a shining light
To a' this place.

What was I, or my generation,
That I should get such exaltation?
I, who deserv'd most just damnation
For broken laws,
Sax thousand years ere my creation
Through Adam's cause.

Yet I am here, a chosen sample,
To show Thy grace is great and ample;
I'm here, a pillar o' Thy temple,
Strong as a rock;
A guide, a ruler and example
To a' Thy flock.

But yet, O Lord, confess I must:
At times I'm fash'd wi' fleshly lust
And sometimes too, in warldly trust
Vile self gets in;

Dear Brother

It will be no very pleasing news to you to be told that I am dangerously ill, & not likely to get better — An inveterate rheumatism has reduced me to such a state of debility, & my appetite is totally gone, so that I can scarce stand on my legs — I have been a week at sea-bathing, & I will continue there or in a friend's house in the country all the summer, for the help my wife & children, if I am taken from their head! — they will be poor indeed — I have contracted one or two serious debts, partly from my illness these many months & partly from too much thoughtlessness as to expence when I came to town that will eat in too much of the little I leave them in your hands.

Remember me to my Mother. Yours

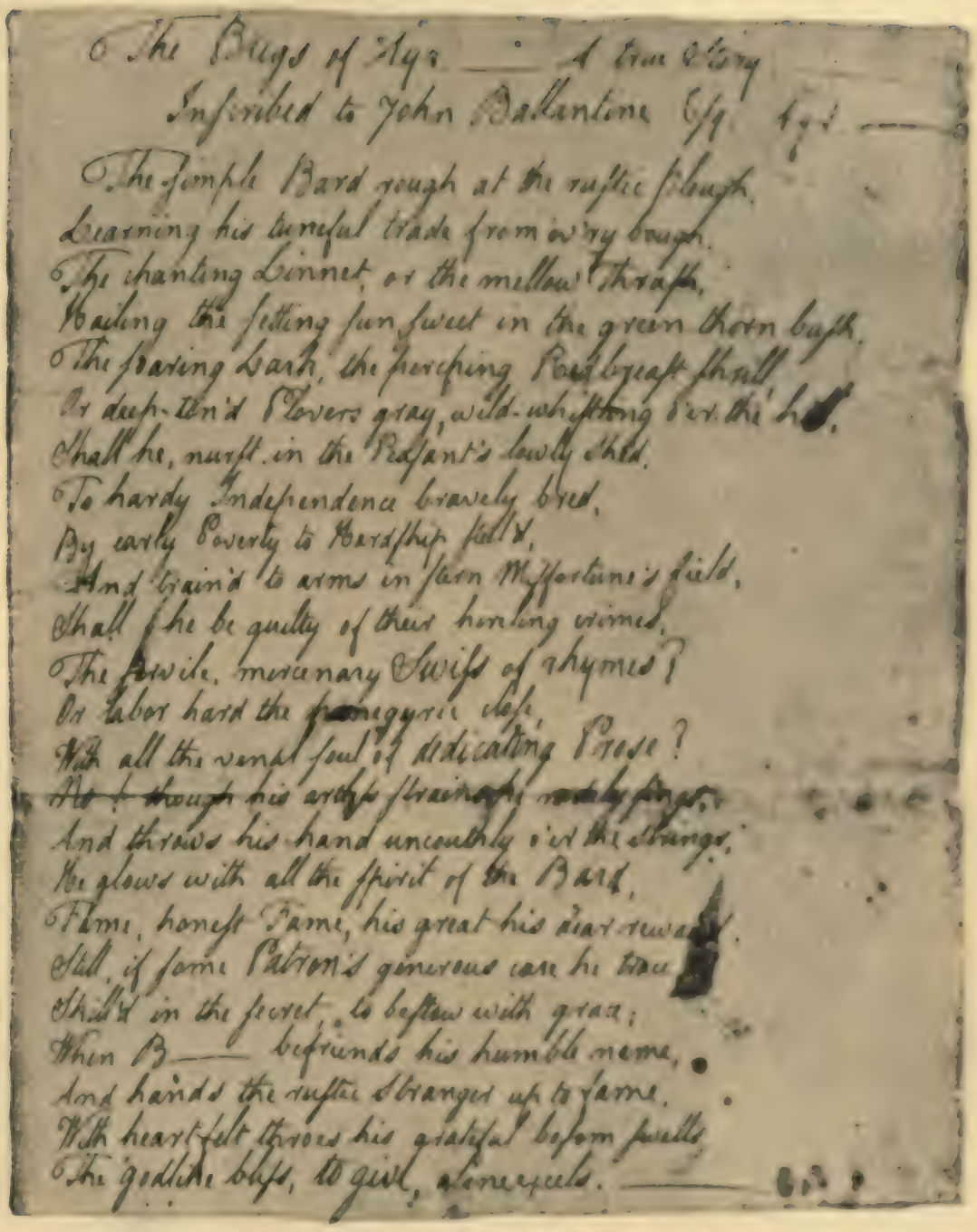
July 10th 1796. R Burns

Letter from Robert Burns to his brother Gilbert

From the correspondence of Burns with George Thomson, embodying the most celebrated of the poet's songs

Robt Burns was born at Alloway in the Parish of Ayr— Jan 25th 1759—
Jean Armour his wife was born at Mauchline Feb 27th 1765—

Sept 3, 1786 there were born to them twins, Robert the eldest born at a quarter past four of them died at fourteen months old — March 3, 1788 was born to them twins again, two daughters who died within a few days after their birth — August 9th 1789 was born to them, Francis, Wallace, so named after Mr Dunlop of Dunlop. he was born a quarter before seven, forenoon — April 3d 1791 between three & four in the morning, was born to them William, Nicol; so named after Mr Nicol of the High school, Edin — December 25th 1792 at a quarter past four, was born to them Elizabeth Riddel so named after Mrs Robt Riddel of Glenriddel —
Caroline Glencairn born 29th Aug 1794 so named after the late Earl of Glencairn
Maxwell born 21st July 1796 the son of the Patriot Perennial so named after the Thane of Fife who received the Poet in the Isle of Skye [illegible] St Thomas's [illegible]



The Birks of Aby ——— A true Story
Inscribed to John Ballantine Esq. ——

The simple Bard rough at the rustic plough
Learning his tuneful trade from ev'ry bough.
The chanting Linnet, or the mellow Thrush,
Hailing the setting sun sweet in the green thorn bush.
The soaring Lark, the perching Robin breast shall
Or deep-tin'd Plovers gray, wild-whistling o'er the hill,
Shall he, nurst in the Peasant's lowly shed,
To hardy Independence bravely bred,
By early Poverty to Hardship steel'd,
And train'd to arms in stern Misfortune's field,
Shall he be guilty of their hireling crimes,
The low'ly, mercenary Sons of rhymes?
Or labor hard the panegyric close,
With all the venal soul of dedicating Prose?
No! though his artless strains may rude appear,
And throws his hand uncouthly o'er the strings,
He glows with all the spirit of the Bard,
Fame, honest Fame, his great his dear reward.
Still, if some Patron's generous care he trace
Skill'd in the secret, to bestow with grace;
When B——— befriends his humble name,
And hands the rustic stranger up to fame,
With heart-felt throes his grateful bosom swells,
The godlike bliss, to give, alone excels. ———

Facsimile of the original MS. of "The Birks of Aby"

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PART VI IV

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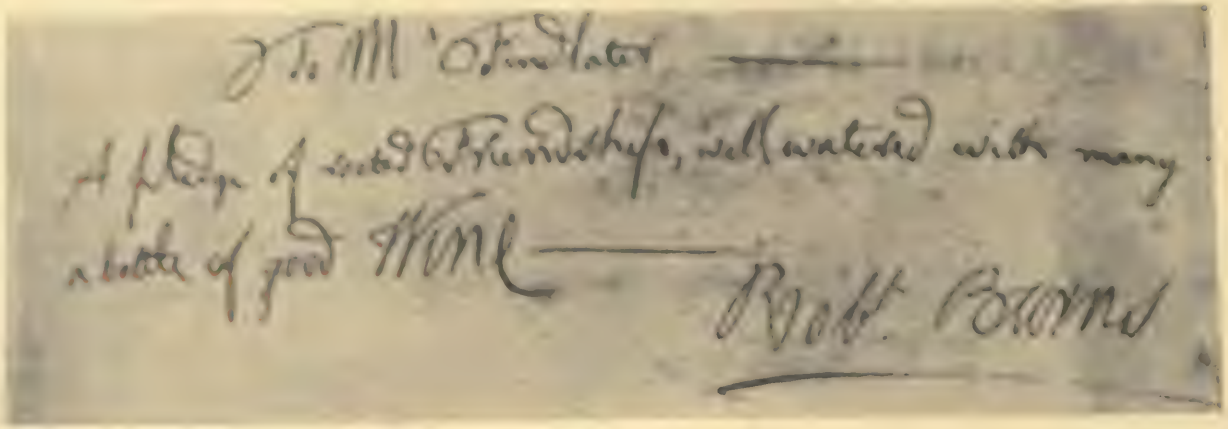
my much esteemed Friend
Wm Dunlop of Dunlop —
Robt Burns

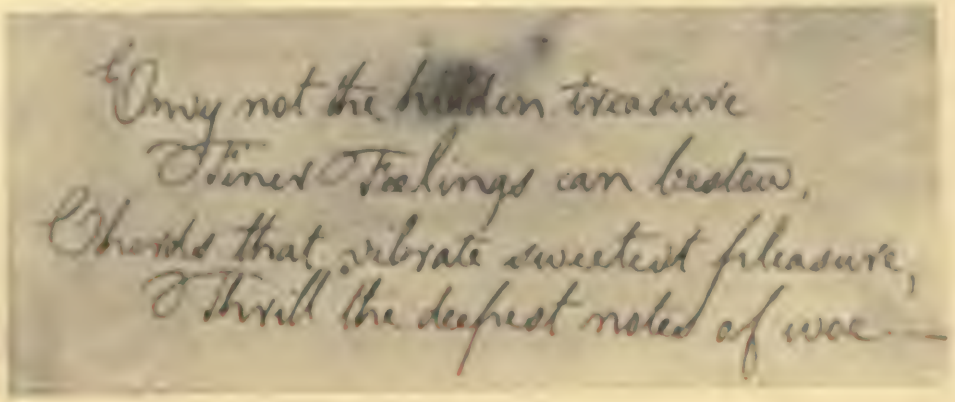
To Patrick Miller Esquire
of Dalswinton —
from his much indebted humble
Servt
The Author

To Elizabeth Burns —
— her Father's gift —
The Author

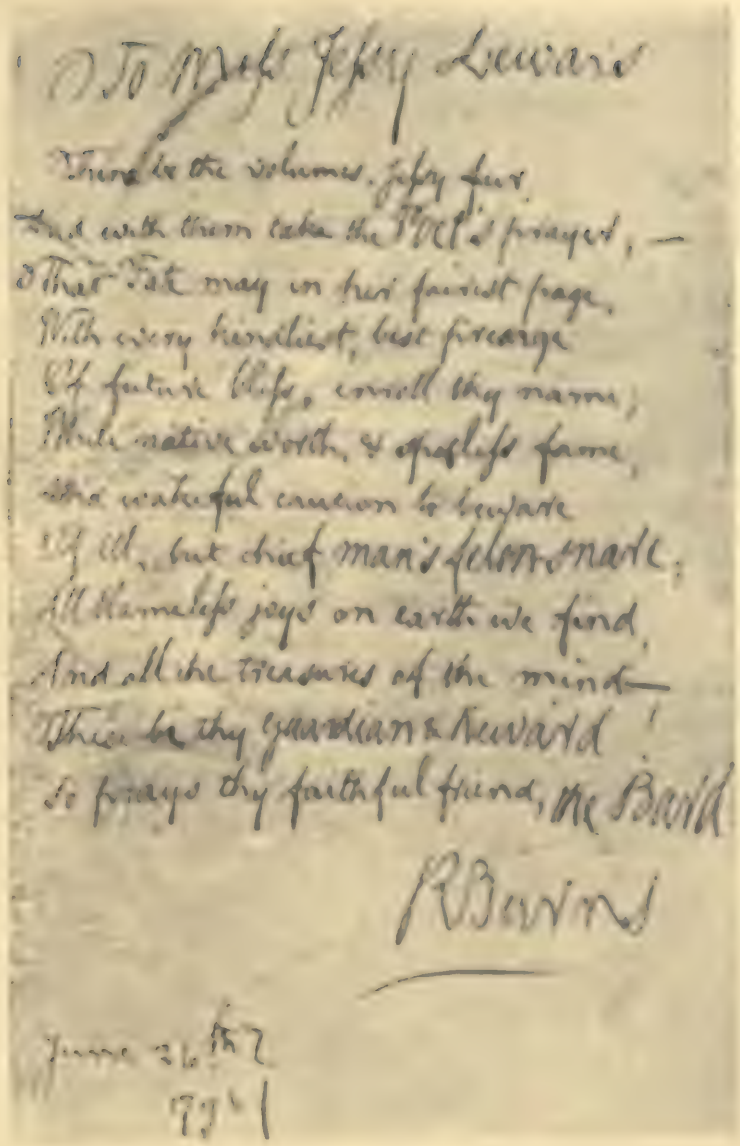

To M. 'Findlater

A pledge of mutual Friendship, well watered with many a bottle of good Wine

Robt. Burns


Omay not the hidden treasure
Finer Feelings can bestow,
Chords that vibrate sweetest pleasure,
Thrill the deepest notes of woe.—

1. Inscription from Presentation Volume
2. Stanza from a Burns poem in the poet's handwriting



To Miss Jessy Lewars

There be the volumes, Jessy fair,
And with them take the Poet's prayer, —
That Fate may on their fairest page,
With every kindliest, best presage
Of future bliss, enroll thy name;
Meek native worth, & spotless fame,
And wakeful caution to beware
Of ill, but chief man's fell ensnare;
All Harmless joys on earth we find,
And all the treasures of the mind —
These be thy guardian & reward!
So prays thy faithful friend, the Bard

RBurns

June 26th
1794

A Mad.lle J. Lewars —

Un petit gage de l'Amitié. —

RBurns

Inscriptions from Presentation Volumes

grateful attachment to him, which was indeed so strong that it pervaded my very soul, & was entwined with the strings of my existence; so soon as the Dean's friends had got in, (& every dog you know has his day) my getting forward in the Church would have been an easier than otherwise it will be. — Though this was a consummation devoutly to be wished, yet, thank Heaven, I can live & rhyme, as I am: & as to my boys, poor, little fellows, if I cannot place them on as high an elevation in life, as I could wish, I shall, if I am favored so much of the Disposer of events as to see that period, take care to fix them on as broad and independent basis as possible. — Among the many wise adages which have been treasured up by our Scotish Ancestors, this is one of the best — "Better be the head o' the Commonalty, as the tail o' the Gentry" —

But I am got on a subject which however interesting to me, is of no manner of consequence to you, so I shall give you a short poem on the other page, & close this with assuring you how sincerely I have the honor to be

Sir, your obliged & ever grateful, humble servt.

Robt. Burns

Letter from Burns to Dr. Moore about various matters; Captain Grose; "Tolbooth" Jean Jaconet; Queen Elizabeth; "a really deserved, posthumous reputation," etc.
dated Ellisland, near Dumfries, 28th February, 1790

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PART V

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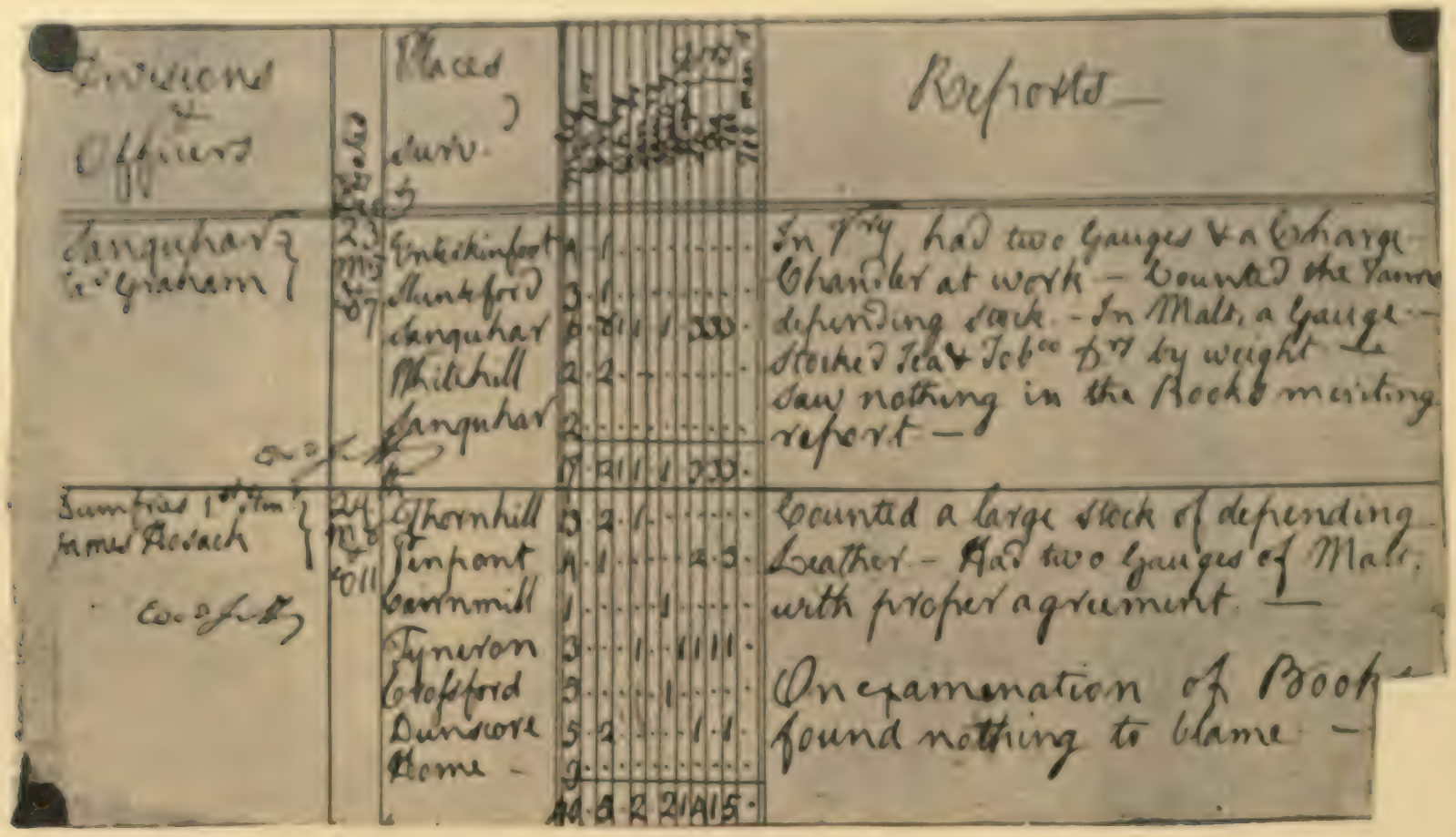

| Divisions & Officers | Placed duty | | |

POEMS

ASCRIBED TO

ROBERT BURNS,

THE AYRSHIRE BARD,

NOT CONTAINED IN ANY EDITION OF HIS WORKS

HITHERTO PUBLISHED.

GLASGOW,
PRINTED BY CHAPMAN & LANG,
FOR THOMAS STEWART, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.

1801.

Title Page of early edition of Burns' Poems

POEMS.

CHIEFLY IN THE

SCOTTISH DIALECT.

BY

ROBERT BURNS.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH.

M,DCC,LXXXVII.

Title Page of early edition of Burns' Poems.

POEMS
ON
VARIOUS SUBJECTS.
BY
ROBERT FERGUSSON.
IN TWO PARTS.
THE SECOND EDITION.
EDINBURGH
Printed by T. Ruddiman:
For J. Bell, J. Balfour, W. Gordon, C. Elliot,
P. Hamilton, and J. Sibbald.
M.DCC.LXXIII.

Presentation Copy of Fergusson's Poems with inscription by Burns

ROBERT BURNS

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PART VI

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Arm-chair (the property of Queen Victoria) made from an oak beam taken from
"Alloway's Auld Haunted Kirk"

Interior of Burns' Cottage

(From a painting by Robert Alexander, R.S.A.)

The Bridge of Ayr
(From a painting by W. J. Goddard, R.S.A.)

The Market Cross, Ayr, as it was in the days of Burns
From a painting by D. H. MSL. R.S.A.

ROBERT BURNS

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PART VII

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Brass Relics including "The Auld Nick Horn"

Iron Pot and Furniture which belonged to Burns

Draught-board used by Gilbert and Robert Burns at Lochlea. Wooden Snuff-box, with verses from "Willie brewed" on the lid; on one side, in the poet's handwriting, "Yours sincere, Robt. Burns."

Stowe' Bullen, including the Easter Chest

Blunderbuss which belonged to Burns. Swordstick which belonged to Burns. This stick was presented by Burns to John Richmond. It is referred to in one of the poet's letters. Flintlock Pistol marked on the stock "R. Burns, 1790." Whip used by the poet. It was used by Burns in his rides as an exciseman, as his Highland beat

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PART VIII

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Monkhill Castle in 1856
(From a painting by James Carse)

Mauritius

Globe Tavern, Dumfries
From a painting by George Thompson

The Funeral of Robert Burns, Dumfries, July 25, 1796
(From a painting by W. S. Gardiner, R.S.A.)